

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the following:

1. (Amended) A process for manufacturing sets of printed pages for the preparation of books, comprising the steps of unrolling paper from a feed roller and subsequently cutting a sheet of paper before the sheet is supplied to a printing machine, which then prints bodies of text on the sheet, wherein, in an electronic printing machine having a memory for the content of the bodies of text and an electronic controller for determining a surface area occupied by the bodies of text and parameters defining the bodies of text, printing the bodies of text with a symmetrical distribution with respect to a centre of symmetry of the sheet being printed and likewise symmetrically with respect to one or two axes of symmetry, which pass through the centre of symmetry and which are parallel with outer edges of the sheet, varying at least one of the outer edges of the bodies of text in accordance with dimensions provided therefor, and subsequently reversing the sheet in order to print bodies of text corresponding to reverse faces of the printed sheet and then folding the printed sheet about one or both of the axes of symmetry in order to produce a set of pages which are cut at the outer edges in accordance with the dimensions of the printed pages of text, and joining and binding the various sets of pages to form the book.

2. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the bodies of text are printed on a sheet of standard size, the folding of which about one or both axes of symmetry

passing through the centre of symmetry of the sheet produces sets of pages of another standard size.

3. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the adjustment of the parameters determining the bodies of text and the arrangement thereof on the sheet is effected by the externally operated electronic controller without stopping the continuous process of manufacture.

4. (Amended) A set of pages manufactured in accordance with the process of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the set of pages comprises a sheet on which is distributed bodies of text which correspond respectively to pages of a book and which are arranged symmetrically with respect to the centre of symmetry of the sheet and with respect to the one or two axes of symmetry which pass through the centre of symmetry and which are parallel with the outer edges of the sheet, the sheet being folded about the one axis of symmetry if two symmetrical bodies of text are printed on each face of the sheet, or being folded about both axes if there are four bodies of text for respective pages on each face of the sheet.

5. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein each sheet is printed in an off-centre manner to produce a lateral edge strip which is parallel with one of the edges

of the sheet, in order to enable the sheet to be gripped by pincers after the printed sheet has been folded.

6. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein a free edge strip is produced by a displacement of a base carrying the sheet along one or other of coordinate axes of a magnitude equal to that of the desired edge strip.

7. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the sheet is arranged with its edge displaced with respect to a reference edge of a base carrying the sheet, printing being effected in accordance with coordinate axes of the base, to produce a free edge for gripping by pincers.

8. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the off-centre arrangement of one of the edges is achieved by providing a shorter sheet aligned by two opposite edges and a third edge joining the first edges, the fourth edge being misaligned and printing being effected in accordance with the axes of symmetry of a base carrying the sheet to be printed.

REMARKS

This submission is in response to the Official Action dated August 1, 2002. Claims 1-8 have been amended. Claims 1-8 are pending. Reconsideration of the above identified